



COMPLICATED ENTANGLEMENTS: Rethinking Pluralism in the 21st Century 5-6th April 2008

The Centre for Transnational and Cultural Analysis (CTCA), the Art History department at Carleton University and the Carleton University Art Gallery invite you to submit proposals for papers for the conference *Complicated Entanglements* to take place 5-6 April 2008 at Carleton University.

Context

The twentieth anniversary of the highly contested 1988 Multiculturalism Act comes at a critical juncture for rethinking pluralism in Canada and Canadian identity. Not only has race been re-inscribed into the discourse of everyday life after 9/11, but the Canadian model has emerged as a leading example for other nations coping with rapidly changing demographics. In light of multiculturalism's importance in shaping Canadian national and cultural imagination as well as its emergence as an "export product", a critical re-evaluation of its history, validity and impact in the arts is essential.

The decade following the Act was punctuated by a series of exhibitions, symposia, festivals and publications that optimistically sought to bring attention to artists of colour and First Nations artists by defining cultural communities while concomitantly exposing official multiculturalism's tendency to depoliticize racial discourse by managing difference. However, it seems as though the issues of identity, race and community explored by these landmark events came to a standstill in the mid-1990s. Why did this occur and where are we today? How have the heightened mobility and communication associated with globalization altered the discourses surrounding race, pluralism and identity? What has the impact of this been on the arts in Canada? How have the arts responded to these changes?

Program

Complicated Entanglements invites academics, curators, writers and artists challenging conventional notions of multiculturalism, diaspora, citizenship and mobility in Canada to participate in this two day symposium that reflects upon the impact of transnationalism, global economic change and inequity on Canadian art and society today. **Researchers, curators, writers and artists from all disciplines are invited to come to Carleton University on 5-6 April 2008 to tackle these questions, reinvigorate this important dialogue and form a cross-generational and interdisciplinary network of individuals grappling with these issues.**

Abstracts should not exceed 150 words in length and should be sent to ctca@carleton.ca by September 15, 2007 along with a curriculum vitae. Funding may be available for eligible applicants. Abstracts may address any of the following suggested themes:

- Cultural race politics in Canada between 1988 and 1995
- Analyses of government, cultural, institutional and academic policy or funding
- Theoretical intersections of transnationalism and multiculturalism in Canada
- Role of gender and sexuality in discourses of multiculturalism and transnationalism
- Discourses of citizenship, mobility and race
- Place of theories of translocalism in thinking through diaspora
- Visual engagements with any of these issues, presented in the format of an artist's talk.

This conference will not only contribute to the development of a special publication, but it will also assist in the development of Carleton University Art Gallery's upcoming exhibition *Complicated Entanglements: Pluralism, Transnationalism and Contemporary Canadian Art* (September 2008).